

To: Mahmud, Shahid[Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov]
From: Jackson, Larry
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 4:41:03 PM
Subject: Re: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

Hi Shahid,

I've been thinking about you and am pleased to hear that EPA has their best folks involved in this addressing this situation.

How can BLM help? I have been in contact with Brent Lewis, our Colorado AML Program lead. He and EPA have been working for several years on Animas AML related projects and strategy.

On Wed, Aug 12, 2015 at 12:32 PM, Mahmud, Shahid <Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov> wrote:

Folks,

I am working at the Emergency Operations Center related to the Gold King Mine spill. As you know, Gina McCarthy is in Colorado and meeting with three attorney generals. Jim Woolford is going to have a call with the Division Directors and will be sending out an email stating the following:

While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities. We are conducting an investigation of the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the lessons learned from that investigation, we will determine what guidance may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site to identify any immediate threats and appropriate response actions.

In the meantime the NMT has been tasked to come up with an inventory of sites that have ongoing or future assessments with features containing fluids (mine workings, tailings dams, open pits, heap leaches). So we need to develop a matrix of sites with the following fields:

Site Name

Location

Mine Features

Features containing water

Do the mine bearing features have:

Controls in-place (plugs, hydraulic drawdown)

No controls in place

No hydraulic issues

There may be more information but I need to jump on to another call. Thanks!

Shahid Mahmud
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